

HILO RISK ASSESSMENT

April 26-30, 2006

May 21-24, 2006

Purpose

To conduct a risk assessment (RA) at the port of Hilo by collecting data while using additional personnel to analyze the effectiveness in meeting the branch's mission as compared to inspection results from the existing staff.

Inspections

- UPS: Sorting was monitored between 8:15 AM and 9:30 AM during weekdays.
- Federal Express: Sorting was monitored at 1:30 PM during weekdays.
- Interisland Air Cargo: Inspections for inbound freight were conducted at 6:30 AM to monitor freight from three night freighters on Aloha and early morning flights on Hawaiian. Outbound freight was inspected after the afternoon FedEx inspection.
- Interisland Treatment Inspections: Before witnessing citric acid treatments for coqui frogs, shipments were tested for the Little Fire Ant (LFA) by using peanut butter detector sticks as well as visual inspections for nettle caterpillars and other pests.
- Little Fire Ant Surveys: Inspectors used peanut butter sticks to survey for the LFA at certified nurseries that ship interisland.
- Coqui Frog Surveys: Inspectors surveyed the same certified nurseries at nights, listening for the coqui frogs.
- Domestic Aircraft Arrivals: During the first RA period, American Trans Air started direct service from Oakland to Hilo making this the first direct domestic flight in 21 years. Inspectors cleared 4,325 passengers each night, going through declarations and surveillance of passengers and baggage.

Observations

- UPS: Currently, inspectors are not available to monitor UPS on a daily basis. Arrangements have been made for UPS personnel to set aside agricultural parcels without the "passed" stamp impression and calling Hilo Plant Quarantine (PQ) for inspection. During the RA, one box containing live tropical fish was not stamped by Oahu inspectors at the first port of entry. The importer had a single shipment import permit and the box was inspected and released.

- Federal Express: Inspectors are not available to monitor FedEx on a daily basis. Arrangements have been made for FedEx drivers to deliver uninspected parcels to Hilo PQ station. During the RA, two uninspected cartons of cut flowers were inspected and released at FedEx.
- Interisland Inspections: While doing a visual inspection before the shipment was treated, RA inspectors found live nettle caterpillars (Darna pallivitta) on a shipment of 100 Phoenix roebellini palm plants destined to Oahu. The plants were rejected.
- Little Fire Ants Survey: Using peanut butter sticks, RA inspectors detected LFA at a certified nursery in the Kaumana area. This was the first infestation reported in the area. During the RA, 42 nurseries were surveyed with one positive for LFA.
- Coqui Frog Surveys: Of the 43 nurseries surveyed, 10 had coqui frogs in the certified area. The 43 nurseries selected were free of the frog during the last survey period conducted during June-July, 2005.
- Domestic Aircraft Arrival: Items inspected were mostly fruits and vegetables brought on board to be consumed during the flight. Four lots of cut flowers and two plants were inspected and released.

Comments and Recommendations

- UPS: To have complete coverage, UPS should be monitored on a daily basis when additional inspectors are hired. One parcel was not inspected in Honolulu during the RA.
- Federal Express: To have complete coverage, Fedex should be monitored on a daily basis when additional inspectors are hired. During the RA, two parcels arrived without the “passed” stamp impression.
- Interisland Air Cargo: Inspections can be easily done on incoming freight since all the parcels are available at the same time at the destination port. However, outgoing freight poses a problem since parcels are dropped off throughout the day and loaded with non-agricultural items in containers making it very difficult to unload for inspections. During the RA, inspectors went to the freight office only once a day and did not stay. With more staffing, inspectors need to be on premise as parcels are dropped during the day. This problem should be alleviated when all the cargo offices are consolidated in the new cargo hold building planned for Hilo.
- Interisland Treatment Inspections: In order for the citric acid treatment to be effective, the plants need to be washed down no less than one hour after treatment. Currently, inspectors are leaving the treatment sites immediately after due to other scheduled treatments or duties. Nursery operators want to wash

down the plants as soon as possible to prevent burning. The waiting period is very seldom monitored. With additional staff, inspectors can randomly check to see that plants are washed after the required timeframe. One additional inspector is needed immediately to witness interisland treatments full-time.

- Little Fire Ant: Research is needed for effective treatments on LFA to give exporters more treatment options. We are currently using treatments approved for the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA).
- Coqui Frog: Research for other treatments must be conducted since hydrated lime leaves a white residue and citric acid burns many sensitive plants. The hot water treatment facility should help with this problem although many nursery operators are complaining about the amount of handling required when treatments are not done on premise.
- Domestic Aircraft Arrivals: Until such time when more flights or other duties warrant a second shift, funding must be provided to inspect the one daily ATA flight on overtime. Even with additional staffing, to alter the schedule to clear one flight at 10:00 PM would be a very inefficient use of manpower. By paying overtime, all staff will be available during the dayshift when they are needed.